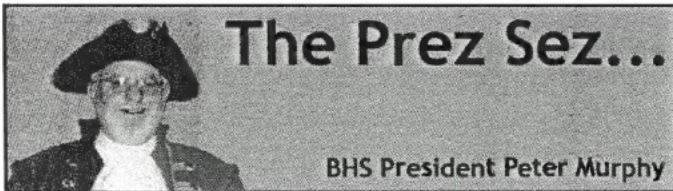


Buffy's Corner



The Newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society

February 2004, Volume 6 Number 1



The Prez Sez...

BHS President Peter Murphy

While we are well and truly into the New Year I believe it is still appropriate to welcome into the fold new members and to thank those who have renewed their membership in recent weeks. The steady flow of cheques through my mailbox is reassuring; particularly to our Treasurer.

Overall membership appears to have levelled out at approximately one hundred. About fifty per cent of the members regularly attend our monthly meetings, which I believe reflects favourably on the variety and quality of our presenters.

Many will recall that Paul Hunt was something of a catalyst for the genesis of our society. He inspired and organized us. Our first newsletter in November 1998 broadcasted our progress. However, in March 1999 we made a quantum leap by naming it "Buffy's Corner". This quality quarterly newsletter is the hallmark of the society, and the trio of Dorothy Willis, Angie Duchesne and Gerry Clarkson, respectively in the positions of Editor, Layout and Production Manager, are responsible in the greater part for this publications' success. Gratitude is also expressed for the contributions made in a timely fashion by our regular correspondents.

The forgoing leads me to advise our readership that this issue will be the last to be published by Dorothy and Angie. After five years of "Buffy's Corner" they have decided to move on to a new project; of which we hope to learn more about in the near future.

I feel sure you will join me in extending our sincere thanks and appreciation to Dorothy and Angie for the fine work they have done for our society. "Buffy's Corner" will, of course, continue once the executive finds suitable and willing replacements; the search is underway.

For the third year we will be heading up the Doors Open Brampton Steering Committee with Ron Raffan at the helm as the project co-ordinator.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is in receipt of our grant application and a proposal is being drafted for presentation to the City of Brampton. All with a view to securing financial support for "Doors Open Brampton 2004".

Finally, with our Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 18, please give some thought for running for office or volunteering to assist the executive in a capacity of your choosing. Active involvement of members continues to be crucial in maintaining the B.H.S. as a thriving and successful organization.

Timely Notes ...

Renewal memberships for 2004 are currently on sale. Also, 2004 Elections are fast approaching. Think about filling a vacancy among the following positions:

President	Vice President
Treasurer	Corresponding Secretary
Recording Secretary	

or serving on one of the following committees:

Archives	Heritage Liaison
Membership	Newsletter
Outreach Projects	Program
Publicity	Research
Save Our Station	Social
Website Liaison	

Madeleine Meilleur, Ontario Minister of Culture, has informed us that the BHS application for a Heritage Organization Development Grant was approved in the amount of \$992. This money will be used in the 2003-2004 operations of the BHS. Thank you, Minister Meilleur, you're the best!

The newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society
Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History
Buffy's Corners, the original name of Brampton, was the site of the respectable tavern owned by William Buffy, considered to be the father of Brampton. His pioneer spirit lives on in the name of our journal. History "buffs" are invited into The Corner to share their stories and comments.

Volume 6 Number 1 February 2004

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Our 'Swan Song'

Buffy's Corner Staff

Editor Dorothy Willis
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President Peter Murphy
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Vice President Janice Smith
Treasurer Gerry Clarkson
Recording Secretary Lynne Genova

Buffy's Corner
c/o Dorothy Willis

BHS
c/o Peter Murphy

Web site: www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com
Email us at: bramhis@rogers.com

Brampton Hysterical Society Joke-of-the-Month

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him what? A super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

Buffy's Corner, published 4 times per year, is free to BHS members (see back page for membership details)

All Aboard!!!

Welcome to the new members of the BHS:

Christine Beech

Duane McPhail

Thanks to members who have renewed for 2004!

Buffy's Corner is printed thanks to the generosity of Peel Graphics Inc. and the Government of Ontario.

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HERITAGE PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAMME

Michael Avis, Heritage Liaison

Heritage homes and properties are of significant importance to any city. They not only provide graceful and distinctive streetscapes that define the individuality of a community but provide us with a visible and tangible connection with our local history.

Unfortunately over the last few years we have seen an erosion of financial incentives to help promote and assist in the restoration and care of our heritage properties. The uniqueness of the restoration of historic buildings can be a costly exercise with conventional restoration methods being inappropriate if the heritage integrity of the building is to be preserved.

However, there may be hope on the horizon. Local heritage property owners may soon be able to tap into a provincial programme whereby they would be eligible for property tax rebates ranging anywhere from 10% to 40%. Obviously the City must look into the financial ramifications to City coffers, however, this plan would appear to be a win-win situation for Brampton. First, heritage property owners would receive a much-welcomed monetary impetus to restore and maintain their heritage properties. Second, with the province agreeing to contribute the education portion of the property tax bill, the City, in fact, would receive *all* the plaudits for taking a culturally enlightened approach to heritage preservation while only having to cover approximately 50% of the cost of the programme.

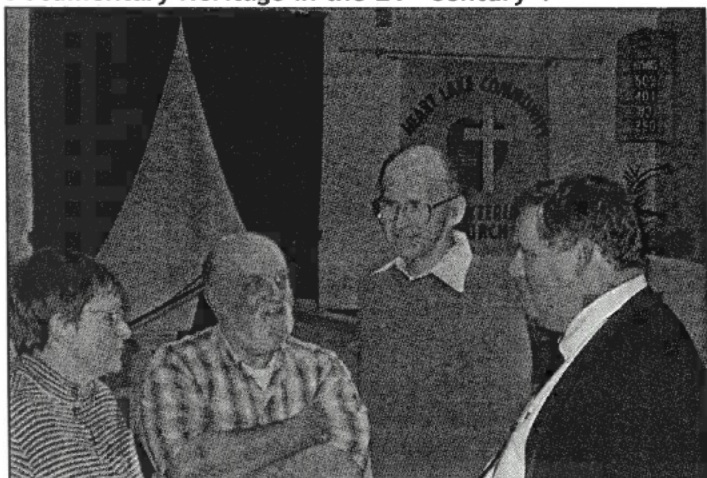
One of the appealing features of the plan is that the municipality has the flexibility to customize it to fit its own priorities and needs: the percentage amount of the rebate, limits or ceilings, ability to target specific neighbourhoods, monitoring devices etc. While this provincial initiative has only been in existence for less than two years, Kitchener, Amherstberg (Essex County) and Port Hope have passed their by-laws. Meanwhile, Peterborough, Toronto and Markham all have by-laws pending while Guelph, Kingston, Waterloo and Richmond Hill are all studying the studying the programme closely.

Inasmuch as we are lagging far behind some of these other municipalities as far as taking an enlightened approach to our built heritage assets, I would hope that our city officials get 'on the ball' and act quickly, taking a serious look at the obvious benefits.

As luck would have it, we are very fortunate to have Mr. Jim Leonard, our new Heritage Coordinator for the City of Brampton, firmly installed at City Hall. Prior to coming to Brampton, Jim was responsible for guiding Peterborough's effort to institute their Property Tax Rebate Programme and has the first-hand knowledge of the work involved. Let's not get bogged down setting up committees to study other committees, interminable reports, studies, fact-finding forays. Surely with Jim's personal experience plus being able to tap into the homework already done by other communities we *can get on with it!*

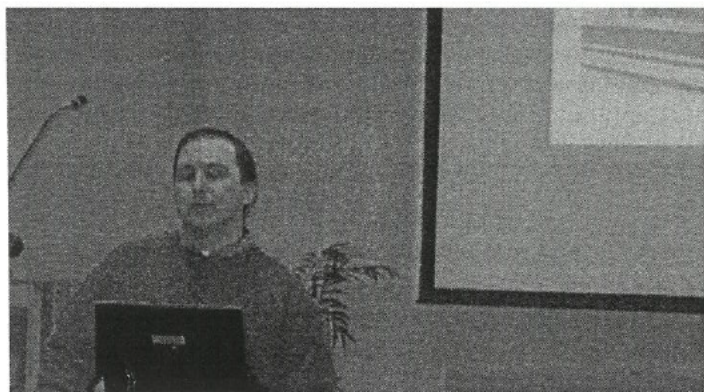
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BHS

November 20 - Michael Moir, Toronto City Archivist presented "Our Collective Memory: Toronto's Documentary Heritage in the 21st Century".



Michael Moir discusses archival issues with BHS members Mary Ellen and Lionel Balez and Larry Giles after the presentation.

January 15 - former BHS Prez Michael Seaman presented a blast from the past, "Brampton's CPR Station".



It was Homecoming Night for former BHS President Michael Seaman, the January speaker, whose Power Point presentation gave us the whole story on the history of the CPR station.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

February 19 - James Douglas, President of the Belfountain Heritage Society, one of the folks of the Credit, speaks on "Heritage in Belfountain".

March 18 - Annual General Meeting and BHS elections. Paul Willoughby presents "Walter Rolling: a Man Before His Time". Mr. Rolling, a black schoolteacher in King Township from 1895 to 1937, was the son of former slaves. He was raised in rural King Township where his father was a storekeeper. By 1895 he had qualified as a teacher and was hired for a one-room school where he remained for 41 years. An accomplished athlete and public speaker, he was well respected in the community.

April 15 - Calling all book worms! Keith Felton, of Felton Bookbinding Ltd., a specialist in the restoration of old books, will show the BHS a little bit of spine in his presentation: "The Conservation and Restoration of Books".

Bookbinding is one of the oldest crafts known to civilized man and is widely recognized as a unique art form. Although much of modern bookbinding is mechanized, Felton Bookbinding Ltd. remains faithful to the ages-old traditions of quality hand craftsmanship in their tools, materials and methods. Felton Bookbinding Ltd. has become one of North America's foremost binderies specializing in fine limited edition binding and the conservation of priceless volumes housed in both public and private libraries worldwide.

Peel Heritage Complex
Historic Bovaird House & Brampton Historical Society
present

'Antiques Appraisal Show'

Sunday April 18 10AM- 4PM

Peel Heritage Complex

(corner Wellington Street & Main)

Experts will be on hand appraising glass & china, art,
jewelry, books, furniture etc

WATCH THE BHS WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

May 20 - TBA

September 16 - John A. Gray delivers "Apple Peelers"- his collection of apple peelers, which are about to be skinned by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Join us in celebrating the harvest and be fascinated and entertained by John A. Gray. Mr. Gray, a hard core enthusiast, is internationally renowned for his collection of apple parers and is currently the President of the International Society of Apple Parer Enthusiasts. He will demonstrate how the apple parer has evolved from the first wooden ones with hand forged blades to modern machine-made examples that are still used today. Apples pared and cored in front of your very eyes will be enjoyed by all!

October 21 - Dale O'Hara presents "The History of the Dale Estate". Brampton, the "Flower Town of Canada", owed its early reputation to the florist industry that blossomed from a little dugout-type greenhouse started in 1860 by Edward Dale to raise market garden produce and grew into the world famous Dale Estate with its perfect Dale autographed roses. A bouquet of history!

BHS Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from January to May and September to November at 7:15 p.m., Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth St., Brampton
Wheelchair-accessible; free to members; others \$5

The BHS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Heritage Theatre for their donations of tickets to Heritage Theatre Presentations for use as door prizes at our meetings.



HERITAGE
T • H • E • A • T • R • E

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

Historic Bovaird House

Historic Bovaird House re-opens for the new season on Saturday, February 14, 2004.
563 Bovaird Drive, Brampton
Info: 905-874-2804 and www.bovairdhouse.ca.

Halton - Peel Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Speaker **Joe MacDougall**, "Genealogy in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia"

Sun. February 22, 2004. 2:00 p.m.

Chinguacousy Branch Library, 150 Central Park Dr., Brampton

Speaker **Diane Kuster** - "Preservation and Conservation of Photos, Postcards, Papers, Ephemera"

Sun. March 28, 2004. 2:00 p.m.

Chinguacousy Branch Library, 150 Central Park Dr., Brampton

Speaker **Fawne Stratford-Deval** "English Genealogical Research From Afar"

Sun. April 25, 2004. 2:00 p.m.

Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy St. Oakville

Speaker **Alan Rayburn** "Resolving Elusive Names in Genealogical Records"

Sun. June 6, 2004. 2:00 p.m.

Chinguacousy Branch Library, 150 Central Park Dr., Brampton

Info: 905-631-9060; www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ogshp/ogshp.htm

Friends of the Schoolhouse

Visit the Schoolhouse:

On the 2nd Sunday of every month the Old Britannia Schoolhouse will be open from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Info: [REDACTED] & www.britanniaschoolhouse.org

Esqueusing Historical Society

Speaker **Deborah Quaile**: "Rockwood: A Mosaic of Memories". Hardy settlers, travelling medicine shows, ghost folklore, strange street names and Callithumpians.

Wed. March 12, 2004 7:30 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown

Speaker **Sue Balough**: "Friends of the Dominion Gardens".

The extensive re-landscaping of the former Dominion Seed House on Guelph Street, Georgetown.

Wed. April 14, 2004 7:30 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown

Speaker **Mark Rowe**: "Silvercreek: The Hamlet, The Creek, The Tavern, The Murder". All will be exposed about this bustling boomtown, now relegated to history or paved over by Trafalgar Road.

Wed. May 12, 2004 7:30 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown

Info: www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html

Peel Heritage Complex

Celebrate Heritage Day, February 15, 2004

Info: 905-791-4055; www.peelheritagecomplex.org

Milton Historical Society

www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

NEITHER HAZEL NOR TROJANS STOP BHS BUCKS

Ken Giles, former Sports Editor of the Brampton Conservator and Brampton Guardian

"Third Consecutive Win, Juniors Swamp Trojans 22-5". This was an appropriate headline for a Hurricane Hazel-Brampton High School football game, played at the Brampton fairgrounds (Elliott Street and McMurchy Avenue) on October 15, 1954. The headline appeared above a story I wrote on the Brampton High School page of the Brampton Conservator, October 21, 1954, the Thursday following Friday's devastating Hurricane.

Why the Brampton fairgrounds and not the Brampton High School gridiron (at Centre and Church Streets) you might wonder? The Brampton Buck's high school football field, east of the school's new wing, was submerged, not a sea, but a lake to those junior players expecting to clash with the New Toronto Trojans of the Toronto District Intercollegiate Athletic Association (TDIAA) that fateful day.

Hurricane Hazel couldn't dampen my spirits for sports writing. A retirement column in the Brampton Guardian of 2000 proclaimed, "There's me on the sidelines, serving in a dual capacity, timekeeper and aspiring journalist with water overflowing from my rubber boots while my notes were either drowned or swept away."

And the quote of the day from longtime Brampton High and Centennial coach, Don Hoare, although not used in 1954 by this cub reporter was, "turn the linemen over, they'll drown."

There was also the third down punt by Brampton's Dean Gowland, which hovered above the field, flying-saucer-like before Hazel's gale force winds that swept the football back to Brampton's end zone, rather than down field, much to the amazement and astonishment of both teams.

The Trojans in white uniforms were targets from the get-go. For white was soon black, while the red, black and yellow of the Bucks was indistinguishable, as mud-caked gargoyles trudged for each yard gained or lost at the squirt of the pigskin. The teams used dressing room facilities at the one year old Brampton Memorial Arena as they sought first-half refuge from the storm.

Now having referred to my 1954 account, for those who were there and will never forget Hazel's vengeance, two Brampton touchdowns were scored by "King" Billy Graham, a future Calgary Stampeder, Toronto Argo and B.C. Lion, and now a member of the Brampton Sports Hall of Fame. Other touchdowns were scored by Bert Naylor and Murray "Moe" McCutcheon, quarterback of the Bucks, while Mike Dennis, (now Brampton's Dr. Mike Dennis) and John Ford combined for a safety touch.

Coach Hoare's two-platoon system tested the stamina of his bench and relieved soaked, bitterly-cold first stringers, victims of Hazel's wrath. It was not until the day following the game that the players knew they had competed in a hurricane, not just a torrential downpour.

WHEN HAZEL CAME

Steve Pitt

On Friday, October 15, 1954, Hurricane Hazel passed over Southern Ontario. Even though Hazel had carved a destructive path across the Caribbean and eastern U.S., experts predicted the hurricane would be little more than a thunderstorm by the time it reached Canadian soil. They were wrong.

In less than 24 hours, more than 300 million tons of rain fell, much of it just north-west of Toronto. The ground, mostly farmland and forest, was already saturated with water from a previous week of rain. Instead of being absorbed into the soil, Hazel's rain moved overland toward Lake Ontario. Tranquil streams and creeks suddenly became raging torrents.

The highest recorded rainfall, 11 inches, fell over the township of Chinguacousy. Fortunately for the town itself, Brampton had just finished building an elaborate water drainage system after years of suffering floods from the annual spring thaw. Communities south of Brampton were not so fortunate.

Three people died in a trailer park in Woodbridge as the Humber River rose ten feet in a matter of minutes, snatched trailers off their foundations and rolled them downstream like toys. Another three people died as they attempted to drive across a bridge over a small creek just west of Woodbridge. Though the bridge appeared intact, the approach had washed away and the three motorists plunged into the water and drowned.

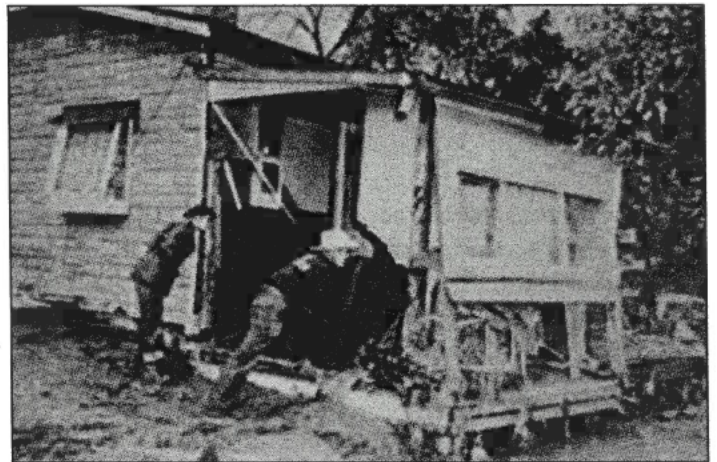
Further downstream, the Humber gathered more water and energy from its tributaries until it surged more than 20 feet above its normal level and three times its normal speed. Every bridge and dam on the Humber River below Woodbridge was heavily damaged or completely destroyed. Any house that stood in the Humber's path was washed away. A fire truck, manned by the Kingsway-Lambton Volunteers, was engulfed by the Humber and rolled. Five of the 8 volunteers died. A dozen houses on Raymore Drive, a street in Etobicoke, were swept away with at least 36 people inside. None survived.

More than 80 people died as a result of Hurricane Hazel, the majority of them in the Humber Valley. Before dawn on October 16, all three branches of the Canadian military were in motion. Trucks from bases as far away as Trenton and Petawawa were closing in, bearing relief supplies, emergency shelter and bridge-building material. The air force recalled all its personnel at Base Downsview and sent them out as military police to help the civilian authorities direct traffic and ward off looters. The Navy reserve at HMCS York launched whalers crewed with reservists to look for survivors in the Humber River and Lake Ontario. Even the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Red Cross and the Salvation Army were pressed into service, serving food, directing traffic and helping dazed survivors begin putting their lives back together.

A lot was learned from the Hazel disaster that is evident even today. The massive park system that includes nearly every river in system in southern Ontario is a result of

lessons learned in 1954 - never again will people be allowed to build their homes in flood plains. Meteorologists also now know that hurricanes routinely pass over Ontario and every 100 years or so we will see another like Hazel.

October 15, 2004 is the 50th anniversary of the arrival of Hurricane Hazel over Southern Ontario. I have written a book called "Rain Tonight", which will be released in the fall of this year to commemorate that event. I have a personal interest in Hazel. I was born at Humber Memorial Hospital, on the evening of October 15, 1954, at the height of the hurricane, just a few hundred yards from some of the worst destruction of the storm. All my life, when older people heard when and where I was born, they'd often say, "Hey, I remember what I was doing that night!" and then they would tell me a hurricane story. This book is a small attempt to make sure those stories are never lost.



All photos courtesy of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Museum

CASTLEMORE GENERAL STORE

Lynne Genova, BHS Recording Secretary, as told by BHS member Freda Brockbank



Freda Brockbank at the latest of the BHS presentations.

Today's consumers can shop every day of the week, every hour of the day if they choose to. They can go to malls, big box stores or shop online at home. Yesterday's consumers usually made their purchases at the local general store. Almost every community in Brampton had one.



*Lucy Brockbank of Castlemore General Store, circa 1977.
Photo courtesy of Freda Brockbank*

Freda Brockbank has a special connection to, and memories of the Castlemore General Store. Her parents, Fred and Lucy Brockbank, bought the store in 1949. Things do not change, it seems: her parents wanted to move to Castlemore from York Township to get away from the busy city. Freda and her younger sister Audrey came with them to help with the family business. At first Fred had employment elsewhere but worked nights and weekends at the store. Lucy ran the store during the day. Freda and Audrey would help out after school and after work. Freda remembers running the store while her mom and dad ate supper. The only time they ate as a family was on Sundays when the store was closed.

The store was on the southwest corner of 10 side road (Castlemore Road) and the Gore Road. It was built in the mid 1800's on a one-acre lot. It was a long narrow white frame building. The interior had a wood floor and ceiling with two long counters on either side of the store and a Quebec heater in the middle. The shelves were painted white. The back of the store and second level were the living quarters for the Brockbanks.

Unlike the stores of today, the general store was open six days a week. Originally open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. it later changed to an 8 p.m. closing. The type of merchandise changed over the years the Brockbanks ran the store. Castlemore was a rural community and pitchforks, nails and shovels could be purchased. Over the years the stock changed to chinaware, sewing supplies, cards, etc. Local children came to buy ice cream, chocolate bars and pop after school and on Saturdays.

This store was a part of the community. Local farmers would meet to discuss politics, farming and "shoot the breeze". High school students gathered there to meet the bus for a ride to the old Brampton High School. When a local family bread-winner lost his job at AVRO, Fred Brockbank delivered a box of groceries to help the family out. Children could visit the store on Halloween to get treats. The new Castlemore Public School just down the road would buy ice cream and pop from the store to celebrate the end of the school year.

The 1960's brought major changes to the community. Malls and large supermarkets in neighbouring Bolton, Bramalea, Brampton and Woodbridge lured customers away. In 1977 the Region of Peel bought the store from Lucy Brockbank. The doors closed for the last time in January of 1978. Castlemore was a growing community and the Gore Road eventually needed to be widened and the store would have to be demolished. A cairn erected to mark the site of the store was unveiled November 4, 1979.



Lucy Brockbank unveils the cairn commemorating the Castlemore General Store.

Photo courtesy of Freda Brockbank

Freda recalls it was not an easy time for her and her mother to move. They moved from Castlemore to a new home in Brampton. What did Freda and her mother miss the most about the Castlemore General Store? They missed their customers. Some of them - your scribe included - they had watched grow up. You know what? We missed them too!

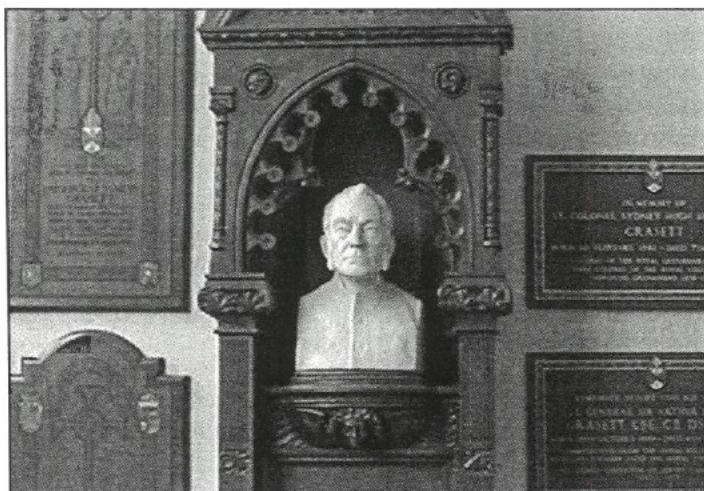
TWICE AS NICE: A SLIGHT CASE OF BIGAMY

Roving Reporter Rowena Cooper

In 2002 I had to visit the National Archives in Ottawa to examine collections that made reference to Brampton and/or Chinguacousy Township. While scanning the hand written index to the Provincial Secretary's Letterbooks I noticed a petition from an Isabella McIlveen in Chinguacousy Township. She was requesting that the Governor General of British North America intervene in her husband's conviction for bigamy and sentence of one year in prison.

Isabella Brown and Gilbert McIlveen were married on November 19, 1840 by Samuel Porter a Minister of the seceding Church of Scotland. Isabella was the daughter of James and Eleanor Brown, who lived on a 200 acre farm at Lot 7 Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street. Following the marriage, Gilbert and Isabella probably moved in with her parents (the 1859 map of the County of Peel shows only one house on the property.)

Neighbours of the family, a Mrs. Crawford and her daughters Margaret and Mary Hillock, knew within a few days that the marriage had taken place. A little while later Margaret moved away to Toronto. There must have been friendship - if not something more - between Margaret and Gilbert prior to his marriage because by 1841 Gilbert was actively seeking her companionship in the city. Letters attached to the case, written by Gilbert, declare the he is "hers till deth". Unfortunately Gilbert also liked to drink heavily. By 1842 his writing was considerably worse and he had obviously offended Margaret by his behaviour when they last met.



Reverend H. J. Grasset, unwitting accomplice to the crime and later Dean of Toronto, appointed by John Strachan. (With thanks to the volunteers at the St. James Cathedral gift shop for their assistance.)

In January 1843 things came to a head. Gilbert travelled to Toronto where he met Margaret with her sister Mary. According to court records the women induced him to drink a considerable amount and then took him to Andrew Mercer, the issuer of marriage licences, where Gilbert gave an assumed name (Thomas Johnson) and swore that he was a single man. The couple was married by the Rev. H. J. Grasset in a Church of England ceremony.

Johnston to Hillock. Toronto, 7th. January, 1843. This day were married by license, Thomas Johnston, of the township of Hope, in the district of Newcastle, bachelor, and Margaret Hillock, of the city of Toronto, spinster, by me, H. J. Grasset, Asst. Minister.

The record of the marriage as listed in the Robertson's Landmarks of Toronto, vol. 3, 1896. The groom's name appears here with an extra letter 't'.

When Gilbert eventually sobered up, he realized what he had done and went home to Isabella, to whom he confessed his terrible deed. After a short time he left home and went away for a few months. When he returned he gave himself up to the authorities, was tried, found guilty and sentenced to one year in prison.

In the meantime, life had not been easy for Isabella. Her father had died in 1842 and in 1843 she had given birth to a son. She and her mother had to run a 200-acre farm on their own and she was desperately worried that she would not be able to get the crops in. It was at that point in 1844 that she sent a petition to His Excellency, The Right Honourable Sir Charles Medcalfe, Governor General of British North America requesting that he intercede on behalf of her husband. The petition, written by John Lynch and signed by 141 residents of Chinguacousy Township, put all of the blame on the shoulders of Margaret Hillock and endeavoured to expose Gilbert as a man who was easily led astray especially when he was "in his cups".

The Governor General felt that it would not be right to intercede in Gilbert's behalf and presumably he completed his sentence. Gilbert's younger brother, James, assisted Isabella and her mother during the sentence and then remained on the farm.

What happened to these people? Isabella must have died sometime prior to the 1851 Census because Gilbert, aged 38, was living with a new wife, Frances, aged 17. In 1850 Eleanor Brown leased him the East Half of Lot 7 and his brother farmed the west half. Following Eleanor's death in 1859 James became the owner of all 200 acres.



The St. James Rectory on the south side of Adelaide Street, about 150 yards west of Jarvis Street in Toronto. The building was the third brick building in Toronto (circa 1825).

Source: Robertson's Landmarks of Toronto, vol. 2, 1896.

OUR 'SWAN SONG'

Dorothy Willis

Angie and I are leaving Buffy's Corner after twenty-two BHS newsletters. Our writing partnership began shortly after the September 1998 - Heritage Complex meeting with Paul Hunt and other historically-minded aficionados interested in starting a historical society. Together with Denyse Churchill, Tricia Carlos (now Seaman) and Susan Barnes (sadly missing on a recent Labrador hiking trip) we formed the Liaison Committee. The Liaison Ladies planned, organized and presented the Inaugural Brampton Historical Society event on January 27, 1999, featuring Ron Brown. The rest is history, as they say.

Although different motivations brought us to the BHS, Angie and I soon discovered we both wanted to write the Society's newsletter. Somehow, never having seen each other in our lives, our talents fit together, we created, and explored new twists and improvements. Of course there were hitches and glitches that added another dimension.

Most memorable however was the birth of "Buffy's Corner". Unknowingly, we had both been mulling over how to legitimize our newsletter. After a long writing session one night we simultaneously did it. A *name*, I said, *I've got a name*, "Buffy's Corner", a variation of Buffy's Corners, the reputed early name of Brampton. (After all, the newsletter was for history buffs and I am a buffalo in Chinese astrology and it seemed logical at two in the morning.) A *design*, Angie responded, *I've got a format, here it is!* Over the five years of putting our heads together, we learned how to produce a newsletter we are proud of.

Many people supported our efforts, most particularly Gerry Clarkson. As production person, he takes charge of Buffy's Corner when Mary Prevost at Peel Graphics phones to say the 300 newsletters are ready for pickup. He wastes no time - the pages are literally hot off the press when he arrives at the printer's door. Gerry then weighs, folds, stamps, mails or hand-delivers our creation. Always in support of our latest

endeavour he calls to say, "it's the best one yet". Thanks, Gerry.

We have relied on BHS legal counsel, Colin Campbell, to give us the green light before going to press. After we have proofread for the tenth time (or so it seems), Colin always finds something we missed. Thanks, Colin.

We appreciate the regular contributors from the executive, the Presidents over the years as well as Michael Avis, who has held the fort on page 2 for all this time. Also those whose work has appeared here on several occasions, such as Rowena Cooper, Fred Kee and George Duncan. The BHS monthly meeting presenters generously provide us with supplements to their talks so all members can share BHS events, while neighbouring historical societies exchange newsletters with us. It all helps us spring into action when it's time for a new Buffy's Corner.

Finally, Peel Graphics, with Sam and Andrew Cook, have made it all happen by sharing the cost of printing our quarterly newsletter and in time for special events when we request. It's been a good association with them.

Angie and I are "leaving the corner", Buffy's Corner, just as Elvis used to leave the building after his concerts many years ago. We hope we have struck a harmonious chord with history buffs. This has been our swan song issue.



The evolutionary process: the first newsletter (l); the christening of Buffy's Corner and first re-design of the layout (m); the current layout, showing the second re-design incorporating the 1857 Bristow-Fitzgerald map.

Application for membership in the **BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY** (bramhis@rogers.com)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Additional Household Members: _____

Signature: _____

☐

I enclose a Household Membership fee of \$20 for a full year

☐

I wish to enclose an additional donation to the Society of \$ _____

Please mail cheque or money order to:
Brampton Historical Society
c/o Peter Murphy, [redacted]
[redacted]
American money accepted at par